## **CLAIMS**

A pharmaceutical composition in particulate form, suitable for oral administration, including a core containing eletriptan or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, the core being coated with a water-insoluble, permeable coating including one or more acrylic copolymer(s) containing trimethylammoniumethylmethacrylate groups, said composition being capable of achieving a sigmoidal pattern of controlled drug release.

- 2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the core contains eletriptan hydrobromide.
- 3. The composition of claim 1, wherein the core contains eletriptan hemisulphate.
- 4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the core is formed as a particle of eletriptan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and optionally one or more extrusion aid(s), binder(s) or diluent(s).
- 5. The composition of alaim 1, wherein the core is formed as a layer of eletriptan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and, optionally, a binder on the surface of a seed.
- The composition of claim 1, wherein the core has a diameter of from 0.2 to 6. 2 mm.
  - The composition of claim 6, wherein the core has a diameter of from 0.5 7. to 1.4 mm.
  - The composition of claim 1, wherein the core contains from 10 to 90% w/w 8. of eletriptan.
- 25 9. The composition of claim 8, wherein the core contains from 40 to 60% w/w of eletriptan.
  - The composition of claim 1, wherein the core includes eletriptan 10. hydrobromide, microcrystalline cellulose and lactose.
- 11. The composition of claim 1, wherein the core includes eletriptan 30 hemisulphate, a hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, a polyethylene glycol and a non-pareil seed.
  - 12. The composition of claim 1, wherein the core includes eletriptan hemisulphate, talc and a non-pareil seed.

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- 13. The composition of claim 1, wherein an additional protective layer is inserted between the core and the water-insoluble, permeable coating.
- 14. The composition of claim 13, wherein the additional protective layer includes a hydroxypropyl methylcellulose.
- 5 15. The composition of claim 1, wherein the acrylic copolymer(s) containing trimethylammoniumethylmethacrylate groups is/are selected from Eudragit RL™ and Eudragit RS™.
  - 16. The composition of claim 15, wherein the acrylic copolymers are a mixture of 95:5, by weight, Eudragit RS™:Eudragit RL™.
- 10 17. The composition of claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble, permeable coating has a thickness of from 10 to 100 microns.
  - 18. The composition of claim 17, wherein the water-insoluble, permeable coating has a thickness of from 40 to 80 microns.
  - 19. The composition of claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble, permeable coating includes Eudragit RL™, Eudragit RS™, talc and triethyl citrate.
  - 20. A pharmaceutical formulation including eletriptan or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and at least one other pharmaceutically acceptable component which is capable of delivering eletriptan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, with a sigmoidal controlled release profile, into an aqueous solution buffered at pH 7.5 wherein (a) 5% by weight of the drug is released at a time point from 1.5 to 12 hours following addition, (b) 50% by weight of the drug is released at a time point from 5 to 15 hours following addition and (c) 80% by weight of the drug is released at a time point from 6.5 to 20 hours following addition.
- 25 21. A pharmaceutical formulation including eletriptan or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and at least one other pharmaceutically acceptable component which is capable of delivering, at least in part by sigmoidal controlled drug release, a mean plasma concentration of eletriptan, in healthy volunteers, of greater than 10 ng/ml at 20 hours post-dosing whilst providing a peak mean plasma concentration of less than 100 ng/ml during the first 10 hours post-dosing.
  - 22. The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 20 including one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipient(s), diluent(s) or carrier(s)

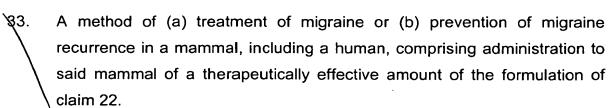
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- 23. The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 22, said formulation comprising a hard gelatine capsule.
- 24. The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 21 including one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipient(s), diluent(s) or carrier(s).
- 5 25. The pharmaceutical formulation of claim 24, said formulation comprising a hard gelatine capsule.
  - 26. A dual release formulation which includes a sigmoidal controlled release composition of claim 1, in combination with an immediate release composition of eletriptan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- A method of treatment of a disease for which a 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> receptor agonist is indicated in a mammal, including a human, comprising administration to said mammal of a therapeutically effective amount of the composition claim 1.
  - 28. A method of treatment of a disease for which a 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> receptor agonist is indicated in a mammal, including a human, comprising administration to said mammal of a therapeutically effective amount of the formulation of claim 22.
  - 29. A method of treatment of a disease for which a 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> receptor agonist is indicated in a mammal, including a human, comprising administration to said mammal of a therapeutically effective amount of the formulation of claim 23.
  - 30. A method of treatment of a disease for which a 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> receptor agonist is indicated in a mammal, including a human, comprising administration to said mammal of a therapeutically effective amount of the formulation of claim 24.
  - 31. A method of treatment of a disease for which a 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> receptor agonist is indicated in a mammal, including a human, comprising administration to said mammal of a therapeutically effective amount of the formulation of claim 25.
- 30 32. A method of (a) treatment of migraine or (b) prevention of migraine recurrence in a mammal, including a human, comprising administration to said mammal of a therapeutically effective amount of the composition of claim 1.

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- 5 34. A method of (a) treatment of migraine or (b) prevention of migraine recurrence in a mammal, including a human, comprising administration to said mammal of a therapeutically effective amount of the formulation of claim 23.
  - 35. A method of (a) treatment of migraine or (b) prevention of migraine recurrence in a mammal, including a human, comprising administration to said mammal of a therapeutically effective amount of the formulation of claim 24.
  - 36. A method of (a) treatment of migraine or (b) prevention of migraine recurrence in a mammal, including a human, comprising administration to said mammal of a therapeutically effective amount of the formulation of claim 25.
  - 37. A method of treatment of migraine and prevention of migraine recurrence \_\_in\_ a mammal, including a human, comprising administration to said mammal of an-effective-amount of the dual release formulation of claim 25.
- 20 38. A method of administering eletriptan or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a mammal, including a human, which comprises delivering eletriptan into an aqueous solution buffered at pH 7.5 wherein (a) 5% by weight of the drug is released at a time point from 1.5 to 12 hours following addition, (b) 50% by weight of the drug is released at a time point from 5 to 15 hours following addition and (c) 80% by weight of the drug is released at a time point from 6.5 to 20 hours following addition.
  - 39. A method of administering eletriptan or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a mammal, including a human, which comprises delivering, at least in part by sigmoidal controlled drug release, a mean plasma concentration of eletriptan, in healthy volunteers, of greater than 10 ng/ml at 20 hours post-dosing while providing a peak mean plasma concentration of less than 100 ng/ml during the first 10 hours post-dosing.
  - 40. A sigmoidal controlled release pharmaceutical composition containing eletriptan or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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- A process for the preparation of a particulate composition of claim 1, comprising (a) forming a core containing eletriptan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and (b) coating the core with a water-insoluble, permeable coating comprising one or more acrylic copolymer(s) containing trimethylammoniumethylmethacrylate groups.
- 42. A process for the preparation of a particulate composition of claim 1, comprising (a) forming a core by layering eletriptan, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and, optionally, a pharmaceutically acceptable binder onto the surface of a pharmaceutically acceptable seed and (b) coating the core with a water insoluble, permeable coating comprising one or more acrylic copolymer(s) containing trimethylammonium-ethylmethacrylate groups.